



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Iran – Earthquake

Fact Sheet #5, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

January 2, 2004

BACKGROUND

- According to the U.S. Geological Survey, on December 26, 2003, at 05:27 am local time, an earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale struck southeastern Iran's Kerman Province. The epicenter of the earthquake, with a depth of 10 km, was near the city of Bam, 180 km southeast of the provincial capital of Kerman and 975 km southeast of Tehran.
- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) reports that 100,000 to 120,000 people live in Bam and the surrounding villages, all of whom have been affected by the earthquake. According to the USAID/Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), the Government of Iran (GOI) estimates that the earthquake has resulted in the deaths of 33,000 to 34,000 people, of which 28,000 are registered burials and 5,000 to 6,000 are unregistered burials. UN OCHA estimates that 30,000 others have been injured, of which 11,500 have been airlifted to other cities for medical treatment, according to the Ministry of Health (MOH).
- According to the USAID/DART, 80 to 90 percent of houses were destroyed in the immediate area of Bam. The number of homeless is estimated at 40,000 to 60,000 residents, but a more definitive number is difficult to establish since many residents have fled Bam and others are staying with relatives elsewhere in Iran.
- According to the USAID/DART, priority needs are water and sanitation, internally displaced persons, and shelter.

ESTIMATED NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Population Killed	33,000 – 34,000	GOI
Total Population Injured	30,000	UN OCHA
Total Homeless	40,000 – 60,000	GOI

Total USAID/OFDA Earthquake Assistance to Iran\$1,764,000
Total USG Earthquake Assistance to Iran.....\$3,776,285

CURRENT SITUATION

Coordination

- The USAID/DART reports that the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has done an impressive job of coordinating humanitarian efforts. To date, earthquake-affected areas have been divided into 12 regions by the IRCS with humanitarian assistance responsibilities for each of these regions being provided by different local IRCS branches. The IRCS is mapping humanitarian needs to use as a basis for the relocation of people into camps, and the USAID/DART is completing humanitarian assessments to assist in this mapping endeavor.
- A Kerman citizen registration in 20 different provincial locations will be conducted during the next few weeks to determine the number of Bam residents who have fled the destruction but are still alive. The registration will also provide Kerman provincial citizens with a ration card to obtain food, potable water, and all petroleum products.
- UN OCHA has dispatched a U.N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team to the area to assist in the coordination of relief efforts. Beginning December 30, the On-Site Operations Coordination Center (OSOCC) began daily Humanitarian Coordination Meetings. On December 31, the UNDAC chairman requested non-governmental organization (NGO) volunteers to begin scheduled sectoral meetings for food, health, water/sanitation, shelter, and child protection as the humanitarian agenda shifts from rescue to recovery. Local Iranian authorities and the IRCS will be asked to join in sectoral assistance decision-making.
- Kerman Provincial authorities have established an office in Kerman to coordinate emergency operations and another office in Bam for liaising with humanitarian workers.
- The U.N. Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) in Tehran sent two teams to the area on December 26 to collect, verify, and compile information on the impact of the earthquake. The UNDMT consists of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), and the U.N. Development Program (UNDP).

Security

- While the media has reported incidents of looting, the USAID/DART reconfirmed on January 2 that the security situation is stable. Since December 29, Iranian security forces have allowed only vehicles carrying humanitarian assistance and relief workers to enter Bam.

Shelter

- According to UN OCHA, many displaced persons are relocating with family members, but other residents are sleeping outdoors in sub-freezing temperatures. According to the USAID/DART, as of January 2, three camps, out of a total of up to nine planned, were established in Bam to accommodate the displaced and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The 600 tent camps are being equipped with donated blankets, sleeping pads, heaters, and kitchen sets. Bam residents have been reluctant to relocate to the camps, but local authorities expect residents to move to the camps as temperatures continue to fall. Mercy Corps reported to the USAID/DART that residents have stated a willingness to move to camps with facilities. On January 1, the USAID/DART visited camps managed by the Swiss Red Cross and Mercy Corps.
- Areas outside of Bam have sustained less damage, according to an IFRC assessment team. On December 31, the IFRC established 50 teams of 4 people to conduct assessments in a 50km radius of Bam.
- On January 1, the USAID/DART conducted needs and damage assessments in the town of Mahdab outside of Bam. The Mahdab section includes approximately 20 to 25 percent of the urban area of Bam. According to the USAID/DART, 90 percent of the buildings are irreparable, as remaining walls are cracked, bowed or leaning to some degree. Most structures will require razing or total wall reconstruction. None of the schools, university buildings, or health facilities is considered inhabitable. While most people have left, a few people remain camped outside homes. According to USAID/DART structural engineers, the remaining residents are camped too close to damaged structures and are still using sections of heavily damaged houses, thus remaining vulnerable to aftershocks. The USAID/DART will report its findings to OSOCC, which is coordinating all assessments.

Orphans

- According to the USAID/DART, an Islamic Social Organization has established a temporary orphanage on the grounds of a former high school. Due to the damage to the temporary orphanage's housing facilities, the organization is housing, processing, and sending orphans to foster homes in Kerman and Tehran. While heavily damaged by the earthquake, the orphanage's latrine is still in use and might collapse from additional aftershocks. To date, the orphanage has processed 1,500 orphans.

Health

- According to the USAID/DART, the earthquake destroyed two hospitals in Bam, and the remaining hospital is of limited value. A number of injured medivaced from Bam during the first days following the earthquake are starting to be released from Iranian hospitals and returned to Bam. The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) has established a field hospital in Bam to receive these patients and continue their treatment. The IFRC field hospital is expected to remain in Bam for the next 12 months. Since December 26, IRCS has treated an estimated 30,000 people.
- According to the USAID/DART assessment, local Iranian staff is currently operating in tents in and around the Iman Khomeini Hospital in Bam. The NGO Doctors Without Borders/Greece is providing medical assistance, and the German NGO German Technical Relief (THW) is supplying potable water. The USAID/DART reported that the hospital needs consumable medical supplies and hygiene items.
- According to the USAID/DART January 1 assessment, there are no operating sanitary facilities in Mahdab. At an IFRC coordination meeting on January 1, the USAID/DART reports that the local government is planning to build 12,000 pit latrines throughout Bam.

Power, water, and logistics

- On December 27, UN OCHA reported that the earthquake disrupted water, electricity, gas, and telephone services in Bam.
- On December 31, the USAID/DART reported that in Bam 30 percent of the water service is functioning and 25 to 30 percent of the electricity has been restored.
- According to the USAID/DART, the urban water system in Mahdab seemed to be operating, although the USAID/DART was unable to assess the quality or quantity of water being supplied. The USAID/DART observed that only a few broken water mains, or 10 to 20 percent, were still leaking, and signs that earlier water main breaks had been corrected. Electricity was approximately 70 to 80 percent in service in Mahdab, and most utility poles were still operational. As there are no buildings in use, people living in tents are tapping electricity from nearby poles.

Urban Search and Rescue

- On December 27 and 28, according to Iranian news sources, an estimated 2,000 people were rescued from collapsed buildings. On December 29, upon the GOI's recommendation, international Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams began to withdraw, and, according to international media reports, machinery arrived in Bam to begin the process of burial and clean-up. According to UNDAC, an estimated 90 percent of Bam has been searched, and, as of December 31, all corpses have been recovered from buildings in these areas. However, according to the USAID/DART, there is still a large problem with debris removal, and there will be a requirement for more heavy removal equipment.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

- The 81-member USAID/DART team arrived in Bam on December 30 via two C-17s. The USAID members include a Team Leader, Deputy Team Leader, Operations Coordinator, Planning Coordinator, Communications Officer, Information Officer, and Security Officer. Other components of the DART include the 11 member Fairfax County USAR Task Force and the 58 member International Medical/Surgical Response Team (IMSuRT) and 5 member Management Support Team (MST) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- On December 31, the USAID/DART set up operations in Bam, met with the MOH, attended meetings for the coordination of humanitarian assistance, and met with Mercy Corps, Médecins Sans Frontières, and IFRC. On January 1 and 2, the USAID/DART conducted assessments and met with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the MOH.
- On December 31, the IMSuRT set up a field hospital to assist earthquake victims and donated 50 units of blood to the IRCS. On January 1 and 2, the IMSuRT Field Hospital treated 189 patients, of which 30 percent are earthquake-related injuries. Two patients have been medivaced to Tehran to undergo emergency surgery.
- USAR members are assisting in technical assessments of Mahdab and supporting OSOCC.
- USAID/OFDA has sent two airlifts of relief commodities, consisting of 300 rolls of plastic sheeting and approximately 12,500 blankets, on January 1 at a total cost of \$175,000.
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$600,000 to the IFRC in support of their Preliminary Appeal.
- According to the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), seven C-130s have airlifted approximately 68 metric tons (MT) of medical supplies, 2,000 blankets, and a 10K forklift to assist in offloading relief commodities in Bam.

ESTIMATED USG EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO IRAN

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/DART ASSISTANCE			
USAID	Logistics and commodities	Earthquake-affected regions	\$175,000
IFRC	Contribution to Preliminary Appeal for commodities	Earthquake-affected regions	\$600,000
USAR*	Urban Search and Rescue Team Support	Earthquake-affected regions	\$569,000
FEMA*	Medical Assistance Team Support	Earthquake-affected regions	\$420,000
TOTAL USAID/DART EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO IRAN.....			\$1,764,000
DOD ASSISTANCE			
DOD*	Commodities and air transportation	Earthquake-affected regions	\$2,012,285
TOTAL DOD EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO IRAN.....			\$2,012,285
TOTAL USG EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO IRAN			\$3,776,285

* These represent estimated costs as of January 2, 2004.

OTHER DONOR AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION ASSISTANCE

- According to international media reports and UN OCHA, the following donors have pledged assistance, including monetary and non-food items, as of December 29: Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Denmark, European Union, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Kenya, Luxemburg, Norway, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
- The IFRC has dispatched an assessment and coordination team to the disaster site and released a preliminary appeal for \$12.3 million in funding, commodities, or services to assist 200,000 beneficiaries for six months.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for their earthquake response efforts in Iran can be found in the “How Can I Help” section of www.usaid.gov/iran, or by calling (703) 276-1914. USAID encourages cash donations because they: allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information on making donations and volunteering services can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov/iran
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - InterAction: www.interaction.org → “Guide to Appropriate Giving”
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.